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ABSTRACT

In cooperation with the Office of Extension Classes and the Continuing Education Program, the College has developed inservice teacher education courses utilizing video tapes and the Victor Electrowriter Remote Blackboard (VERB). These programs are offered for two semester units of graduate extension credit and include eleven 2 1/2-hour sessions. The first such program entitled "Legal Problems and the Wyoming Education Code," was conducted during the 1970 spring semester. A total of 71 teachers and administrators in 10 communities enrolled in and completed the program. Each session began with a 1-hour presentation by an on-campus professor on the videotape which was broadcast by cable TV systems in Wyoming. Those enrolled then met in the VERB studio in their respective communities for a 1 1/2-hour VERB session with the instructor who made the television tape for that particular week. Evaluation of the first program by students was generally favorable as far as instruction and content were concerned. However, some mention was made of mechanical difficulties and lack of face-to-face contact with the instructor. A course entitled "Accountability in Education" is currently being conducted with 90 teachers and administrators in eight communities enrolled. (The report includes outlines of the two courses.) (RT)

ED051115

An Entry For

The 1971 AACTE Distinguished Achievement Awards

Regarding

In-Service Programs

for

Wyoming Education

via

Video--VERB

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SP004993

In-service Programs for Wyoming Educators via Video--VERB

Summary of Program

Since the University of Wyoming is the only four-year institution of higher education in Wyoming, it is the State's only institution for the preparation of teachers and administrators. For this reason, it is imperative that it administer to the needs of all Wyoming educators.

As may be noted on the map included as a part of the Appendix (Exhibit 1), the University, located at Laramie, is in the extreme southeastern portion of the State; thus most of the students must travel a considerable distance to attend. This distance factor also negates the opportunity for many school people to attend evening or Saturday classes at the University during the school year.

In an attempt to meet specific needs of Wyoming educators, personnel within the College of Education in cooperation with the Office of Extension classes and the Continuing Education Program (under Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965) have developed in-service programs or courses utilizing video tapes and the Victor Electrowriter Remote Blackboard (VERB). (See Appendix, Exhibits 2 and 3)

These programs are offered for two semester units of graduate extension credit and include 11 sessions which are two to two and one-half hours in length. The first such program was conducted during the Spring Semester of 1970 and was entitled Legal Problems and the Wyoming Education Code. A total of 71 teachers and administrators in 10 Wyoming

communities enrolled in and completed the program.

Each of the sessions consisted of a one-hour presentation by an on-campus professor(s) (during four sessions State Department of Education personnel were involved) on video tape, followed by a one to one and one-half hour session using the VERB arrangement. Copies of the video tape were sent to Cable TV systems in Wyoming for broadcast. A copy of the video tape was also sent to a community not served by a Cable TV system. All communities involved were linked together by two telephone lines. These lines and the Victor Electrowriter Remote Blackboard not only made two-way oral communication possible but also enabled those enrolled to receive anything written on the electrowriter. VERB sessions originated at the University of Wyoming.

A course entitled Accountability in Education is currently being conducted with 90 teachers and administrators in eight communities enrolled. The distance of these eight communities from the campus ranges from 244 to 331 miles. The program is being offered for two hours of graduate extension credit with weekly sessions scheduled from November 2, 1970, to January 25, 1971.

Explanation and Analysis of Video--VERB In-service Programs

In 1967 Carbon County, Wyoming, schools received a grant from the U. S. Office of Education under Title III, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, to improve instruction in the county's elementary and secondary schools. The six high schools in the county and the Instructional Center at Sinclair, Wyoming, were linked together by a private two-line telephone system. By use of this system and the Victor Electrowriter Remote Blackboard (VERB) students and teachers in these schools were able to receive tele-lectures and at the same time receive anything which the instructor would normally write on a blackboard. (See Exhibits 2, 3, and 4 in the Appendix)

Since that initial introduction of VERB into Wyoming in 1967, some University extension courses have been taught wholly or in part using the VERB system; however, it was not until last Spring that an attempt was made to use educational television and VERB together in a regular college course.

Wyoming is sometimes described as a "land of high altitude and low multitude." The State has a population of less than 350,000, and the distances between population centers are great. In addition the long cold winters, the numerous mountain ranges which make winter traveling difficult, the location of the one four-year institution in the extreme Southeastern corner of the State, and the lack of any statewide educational TV capability make it extremely difficult or impossible for educators to improve competencies and to continue their professional education on campus during the regular school year.

Several of the factors mentioned above also severely complicate and limit offerings available through the extension services. Thus it appeared that the wedding of video-tape and VERB to provide programs for Wyoming educators could be an extremely beneficial, experimental, and innovative approach to in-service education.

The initial attempt to implement this program, during the Spring of 1970, focused on legal problems (school law) and was structured for teachers and administrators alike. Instruction was handled through a team approach. Dr. Maurice Wear and Dr. Myron Basom, members of the Department of Educational Administration in the College of Education, coordinated the course. Other participants from the University included Dr. Leslie Grimes, College of Education, and Dr. John Rames, College of Law. Dr. William Conklin, Superintendent of the Laramie Public Schools, presented one session. Since four sessions dealt with specific portions of the Wyoming Education Code, personnel from the State Department of Education were also utilized. These included Mr. Harry Roberts, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Dr. Roger Hanson, Assistant State Superintendent; and two members of the Department's legal staff.

Each of the sessions began with the showing of a one-hour video tape prepared by College personnel at the University of Wyoming TV studio. This tape which was broadcast by Cable TV systems out in the State was viewed by the class members and was also available for anyone wishing to watch it on the local educational channel. Those enrolled then met in the VERB studio in their respective communities for a one to one and one-half hour VERB session with the instructor(s) who made the television tape for that particular week.

The two-line telephone network connecting the various locations not only permitted oral interaction between the instructor(s) at the University and the individuals at the various locations in the State but also provided for oral interaction among those same individuals.

The VERB equipment which was used enabled the instructor to write (or draw) on a transmitting machine and the image was carried over the telephone lines to a receiver at each location where it was picked up on a roll of transparent material and then projected on a screen--much in the way an overhead projector operates. (See Exhibit 4 in Appendix)

In this first attempt, 71 educators were enrolled for credit in the communities of Rock Springs, Riverton, Pavillion, Shoshoni, Thermopolis, Worland, Sheridan, Laramie, Gillette, and Casper. Thus one of the great advantages of using the combined media approach was that the program could be offered to educators in widely separated areas at the same time. For example--as may be seen on the map in the Appendix --Laramie is 300 miles from Sheridan and Gillette is over 350 miles from Rock Springs.

A minimum of instructor travel was required. State Department of Education personnel did have to travel from Cheyenne to Laramie (50 miles) to cut the video tapes; however, the VERBcast when they were involved originated in Cheyenne.

Another distinct advantage of this combined media approach was the involvement of eight different people in the instruction of the course; this would have been impossible in a regular extension program because of scheduling and travel restrictions.

Some disadvantages were also encountered. Probably foremost was the lack of personal contact between the instructor and the class members; this was partially compensated for by using the two media together. Some technical problems occurred with both the video tape and the VERB. Human errors also occurred as evidenced by the fact that on occasion a class was locked out of the VERB studio in one commu[illegible]y!

At the conclusion of the 11 sessions, students were asked to evaluate the program using the form found in the Appendix--Exhibit 8. Their evaluations were generally quite positive as far as instruction and content were concerned. However, some did mention mechanical difficulties and a few commented on the lack of face to face contact with the instructors.

Expenses for the telephone-lines, the VERB equipment, and the video taping were partially covered under Title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Since extension courses are not considered part of the normal faculty load, stipends for college instructors were provided by the Office of Extension at the University of Wyoming through fees paid by participants in the program.

The success of the first attempt was indicated by the fact that early this Fall educators from the State requested additional courses be offered via Video--VERB. Thus, a course entitled Accountability in Education is currently being conducted. Ninety students are enrolled in eight communities--Riverton, Pavillion, Worland, Shoshoni, Ten Sleep, Thermopolis, Sheridan, and Gillette. The video tape sent to the Cable TV system at Thermopolis for broadcast also reaches the communities of Riverton, Pavillion, Worland, and Shoshoni. Individual

video tapes are sent to Ten Sleep, Sheridan, and Gillette. Dr. George Bailey, Dr. Myron Basom, Dr. Fred Wendel, and Dr. Maurice Wear from the Department of Educational Administration and Dr. Tom Weiss from the Department of Curriculum and Instruction plus personnel from the State Department of Education and the Wyoming Education Association are instructors and resource people for the course.

As a result of the evaluation last Spring, approximately half of the VERBcasts are originating at the various VERB studios out in the State and thus provide some actual face-to-face contact.

The assessment at this point in time is that the use of these electronic vehicles to bridge the dollars-miles-gap and bring the resources and personnel of the College of Education to teacher and administrators in the State of Wyoming has been quite successful. Thus additional courses are currently being developed to provide in-service programs for Wyoming educators via Video--VERB.

APPENDIX

Exhibit 6a

E-674M, LEGAL PROBLEMS (School Law) and the WYOMING EDUCATION CODE
via Video--VERB

(Outline of Sessions)
Spring 1970

Credit: Two semester hours (S-U)

(All Video sessions are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. and the VERB at 8:00 p.m.)

Basic Materials:

1. Essentials of School Law (paperback) by Drury and Ray
2. The Wyoming Education Code of 1969 published by The State Department of Education
3. Other readings as required by various instructors

Session I - February 25, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
Introduction - Dr. Myron Basom and Dr. Maurice Wear

Session II - March 4, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
Pupil Discipline - Dr. John Rames

Session III - March 11, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
Administrative Government and Officers - Dr. Leslie Grimes

Session IV - March 18, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
Tort Liability - Dr. Rames

Session V - March 25, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
Teachers, Principals, and Superintendents - Dr. Basom and Dr. Wear

Session VI - April 1, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
Pupil Admission and Attendance - Dr. William Conklin

Session VII - April 8, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
The Wyoming Education Code of 1969 - Dr. Roger Hanson and staff

Session VIII - April 15, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
The Wyoming Education Code of 1969 - Dr. Roger Hanson and staff

Session IX - April 22, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
The Wyoming Education Code of 1969 - Dr. Roger Hanson and staff

Session X - April 29, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
The Wyoming Education Code of 1969 - Dr. Roger Hanson and staff

Session XI - May 6, 1970, 7:00 p.m.
Final Evaluation - Dr. Wear

Exhibit 6b

Legal Problems (School Law) and the Wyoming Education Code
via
Video--VERB
Spring 1970

Basic materials:

1. Essentials of School Law (paperback) by Drury and Ray

2. The Wyoming Education Code of 1969 published by The State Department of Education

3. Other readings as assigned by various instructors

Session I - INTRODUCTION
Historical Source of Public School System
Legal Source of Public School System
Other

Session II - PUPIL DISCIPLINE
Pupil Discipline and Control
Out-of-School Activities
Violation of Rules
Corporal Punishment
Suspension and Expulsion
Liability for Suspension or Expulsion
Wrongful Exclusion Remedies
Married or Pregnant Pupils
Promotion and Retention
Student Activities Funds

Session III - ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNMENT AND OFFICERS
Generally
De Facto Office
Right to Office-Vacancies
School Board Meetings
Time and Place of Holding Meetings
Board Quorum
Conduct of Board Meeting
Board Minutes
Rules and Regulations
General Authority of a School Board to Contract
Pupil Transportation
Transportation of Parochial Pupils
Liability of School Board
Liability of the Driver
Religious Exercises

Session IV - TORT AND LIABILITY
Generally
Government-Proprietary Functions
Trespass or Nuisance
Personal Responsibility of Board Members
Personal Tort Liability of School Employees

Session V - TEACHERS, PRINCIPALS, AND SUPERINTENDENTS
- Generally
- Qualifications
- Certification
- Selection and Employment
- Recommendation of Superintendent of Schools
- Term of Employment
- Tenure
- Rights Under Tenure Statutes
  - Dismissal
  - Procedures and Remedies
- Their Duties and Authority
- Discipline and Punishment of Pupils
- Pupil Injuries
  - Absence from the Classroom
  - Playgrounds
  - Shops and Laboratories
  - Physical Education and Driver Education
  - Field Trips
  - Legal Defenses for a Teacher
- Principals and Superintendents

Session VI - PUPIL ADMISSION AND ATTENDANCE
- Generally
- School Residence
- Non-Residence
- Eligibility
- Age
- Compulsory Attendance
- Classification and Assignment
- Out-of-District Pupils
- Curriculum
- Transportation

Session VII - WYOMING EDUCATION CODE

Session VIII - WYOMING EDUCATION CODE

Session IX - WYOMING EDUCATION CODE

Session X - WYOMING EDUCATION CODE

Session XI - FINAL EVALUATION

Exhibit 7

ACCOUNTABILITY IN EDUCATION
via Video--VERB

Ed. Adm. E-791M
(Outline of Sessions)
Fall 1970

Credit: Two semester hours (S-U)

Basic Materials:

1. How to Appraise Teaching Performance (paperback) by Redfern
2. Preparing Instructional Objectives (paperback) by Mager
3. Other required readings as assigned by individual instructors

Session I - November 2, 7:00 p.m.
Overview of Accountability in Education - Dr. George Bailey, Dr. Myron Basom, Dr. Maurice Wear

Session II - November 9, 7:00 p.m.
Performance Contracts and Voucher Plans - Dr. Myron Basom, Dr. Maurice Wear

Session III - November 16, 7:00 p.m.
National Assessment and PPBES - Dr. Myron Basom

Session IV - November 23, 7:00 p.m.
Staff Evaluation - Dr. George Bailey

Session V - November 30, 7:00 p.m.
Staff Evaluation - Dr. George Bailey

Session VI - December 7, 7:00 p.m.
Instructional and Behavioral Objectives - Dr. Fred Wendel

Session VII - December 14, 7:00 p.m.
Techniques of Evaluation - Dr. Fred Wendel

Session VIII - January 4, 7:00 p.m.
State Department of Education's Role in Accountability - Mel Gillespie and staff

Session IX - January 11, 7:00 p.m.
Professional Organizations' Role in Accountability - Don Shanor and staff

Session X - January 18, 7:00 p.m.
Teacher Education Programs and Accountability - Dr. Tom Weiss and staff

Session IX - January 25
Final Evaluation (Test)
Paper on Accountability in Education due

Exhibit 8

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

STUDENT EVALUATION

Class _____ Date _____ Instructor _____

This inquiry sheet is designed to represent your opinion of this course. This information can be helpful to the faculty and administration in improving instruction and, therefore, in giving you a better course and education.

Your comments under item II are especially important. Your answers should be your own honest opinion.

I. LEVEL AT WHICH COURSE IS TAUGHT (Check as many items as are applicable)

( ) Far too difficult
( ) Hard but reasonable
( ) Right for this course
( ) Merely repeats previous courses
( ) Too easy

II. REMARKS REGARDING THE INSTRUCTORS AND THE COURSE:

A. Please describe what you liked about this course.

B. Please describe what you did not like about the course.

C. Please describe the way or ways in which this course could be improved.